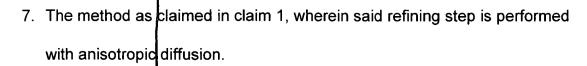
## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- A method for background replacement in image capture systems, comprising the steps of:
  - kecording a background of an image with no foreground object with an image capture device;
  - b) using said image capture device to capture an input image;
  - c) classifying each pixel in said input image as a foreground pixel or a background pixel;
  - d) refining said classification to ensure proper classification;
  - e) replacing said background pixels with pixels from a different background, wherein said replacing is performed with feathering; and
  - f) producing an output image comprised of said foreground pixels and said pixels from a different background.
- The method as claimed in claim 1 where the refining step is performed in the narmalized RGB chromatic color space.
- 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the refining step is performed in YC<sub>b</sub>C<sub>r</sub> **&**olor space.
- 4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said image comprises one frame of video data
- 5. The method as alaimed in claim 1 wherein said image comprises more than 20 one frame of video data.
  - 6. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said image comprises a still image.

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- 8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said refining step is performed with morphological filtering.
- 9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said output image is a video image.
- 10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said output image is a still image.

